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DE RUEHTU #2787 3251621  
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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2243  
INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 0819  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 1303  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE 0972  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 1356  
RUEHKU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 0464  
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE 8270  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE 2543

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 002787

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STATE FOR NEA/MAG - HARRIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/20/2016  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TS](#)  
SUBJECT: TUNISIA: NO AMBASSADOR TO ATTEND LEBANON'S  
NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

REF: SECSTATE 189539

Classified By: AMBASSADOR ROBERT F. GODEC FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) AND (d)

¶1. (C) On November 21, Ambassador delivered reftel demarche encouraging Tunisia not to attend the Lebanese National Day Reception hosted by President Lahoud on November 22 to Saida Chtioui, MFA Secretary of State for the Americas and Asia. Chtioui said that Tunisia has not had an ambassador in Lebanon for over a year, therefore the sole Tunisian diplomat will be representing Tunisia at the National Day. Chtioui explained that President Ben Ali did not want to appoint a new ambassador, as he is waiting for "things to calm down" before naming someone. Chtioui added that, if Tunisia did have an ambassador in Lebanon, "We would have willingly" supported the U.S. position regarding ambassadorial attendance at the event.

¶2. (C) Ambassador further explained that if Lahoud blocks PM Siniora's participation in the event, the U.S. would not be represented and asked that the GOT follow suit. Chtioui noted the point but did not respond.  
GODEC